

## ACT DEFENDED BY ADMIRALTY

### APPROVES COURSE OF COMMANDER WHO SANK ANCONA

Would Have Failed in Duty  
to Let Liner Get  
Away.

REPLY TO UNITED STATES  
MAY BE SENT TO-DAY

Vienna Reports That Pessimistic  
View of Situation Is  
Justified.

WASHINGTON STILL HOPEFUL

Tension Not as Great as During Time  
of Negotiations With  
Germany.

VIENNA, December 14 (by courier to Berlin, via London, December 15).—The Austro-Hungarian admiralty is entirely opposed to any disavowal of the course of the submarine commander who was responsible for the sinking of the Italian liner Ancona. On the contrary, it approves his conduct fully, and declared that he would have been considered as having failed to perform his duty if he had allowed the Ancona to escape. The reply to the American note, it is understood, will be delivered soon, possibly on Wednesday. The correspondent of the Associated Press has not been able to secure a forecast of the terms of the reply, but all indications are that a pessimistic view of the situation is justified.

ADMIRALTY STATEMENT  
OUTLINES ATTITUDE

The admiralty today stated its case and the attitude of the naval authorities as follows:

"It is a submarine commander's duty to make a report to a designated base as soon as possible, and the commander who sank the Ancona did this as soon as he was within wireless distance of land. He made a supplementary report at Pola and accompanied it with his log. No examination of the crew was held, because the commander's report was considered complete, and there was no reason to suppose that the crew would do anything treacherous.

"So far as the commander is concerned, his course is clear. The admiralty has received his report, and sees no reason to find any fault with his course of action.

"If any such reason existed—that is, if the admiralty had found that the commander had done anything contrary to his instructions—it would spontaneously institute an investigation against him without waiting for any demand to come from home foreign government. It can happen that a commander in heat of battle deals contrary to instructions, but nothing of the kind has occurred in this case."

CONDUCT OF COMMANDER  
CANNOT BE DISAPPROVED

"It appears clearly from his report that his ship was in danger, indeed, in double danger, first from the fact that an enemy boat was approaching on a line that threatened to cut off his retreat, and the enemy ship and the Ancona could have established his radius of action and could have set a torpedo-boat flotilla on him, and second, there was danger of the Ancona escaping, which, according to his instructions, was to be prevented in all circumstances. Hence, the conduct of the commander, much as the loss of innocent lives must be regretted and deplored, cannot be disapproved.

"On the contrary, if he had departed without destroying the Ancona, it would have been failure to do his duty, since the Ancona could have notified other ships of his whereabouts. The loss of American lives is regrettable, as well as that Americans used a vessel belonging to a nation at war with Austria-Hungary."

NAVAL WRITER EXPRESSES  
OPINION ON DEMANDS

A naval writer and expert said to the Associated Press correspondent in a discussion on the demands of the American note:

"It should be remembered that Austria's fleet is her favorite child. Its honor and prestige are treasured to the highest degree. The government might possibly yield points in a matter affecting the army, but the disavowal of an act of an Austrian naval officer is hardly thinkable in any but abnormal circumstances. I am certain that it would have to be a very extreme case indeed which could justify, in the eyes of all Austrians, any humiliation of an Austrian officer at the behest of a foreign power."

WASHINGTON REALIZES  
GRAVITY OF SITUATION

WASHINGTON, December 15.—While the gravity of the situation existing between the United States and Austria-Hungary is emphasized by the statement of the Austrian admiralty, giving unqualified approval of the action of the submarine commander who sank the Ancona, officials here said to night they were not surprised to find the admiralty supporting its officer.

It was pointed out that the German admiralty vigorously defended the torpedoing of the Lusitania, and that the concessions made by Germany to the United States in the matter of her conduct of submarine warfare were the

(Continued on Second Page.)

### BARE OF WASTE MATERIAL

Country Swept Clean on Account of  
Soaring Prices Due to War.

NEW YORK, December 15.—The war has sent the prices of waste material soaring to such a height that the country has almost been swept bare of such products, according to reports received by the National Association of Waste Material Dealers at its quarterly session here. Louis Birkenstein, president of the association, told the members the process of reclamation here is akin to what apparently is being done in Germany.

"The demand for cotton for explosives and for cotton batting and filters has resulted in reclamation work in cotton waste products, which has made it possible to substitute many of these for the standard products," said Mr. Birkenstein. "The reclaiming of wool, flax and other fibers and materials for uses not obtaining in the past is going on steadily."

"Certain grades of woollen rags have tripled in price since the war began, and other grades have advanced 200 to 500 per cent higher than 1914. Colored wool rags are actually bringing more than a similar amount of raw wool, owing to the dye in the rags, and on account of the color fumes."

### FIGHT ON FAKE ADS.

Newly Elected District Attorney in New York Preparing for Prosecution of Guilty Persons.

NEW YORK, December 15.—Judge Edward Swann, the newly elected district attorney of New York County, is preparing for the prosecution of persons responsible for the publication of fraudulent advertisements.

In an address to the members of the Sphinx Club, representing all kinds of commercial advertising, he appealed last night for their aid in obtaining legislation and the prosecution of those who mislead the public through false advertisements. An advertisement that would open a commercial fraud department in the district attorney's office, Judge Swann said.

"The long-suffering public must be taken care of. It makes no difference if the public does not take the time to investigate advertisements before investing. They, none the less, have the right to protection from fraud. The commercial atmosphere must be clarified."

### FORD PARTY AT KIRKWALL

Steamship Oscar II, With American Peace Pilgrims on Board, Reaches English Port.

KIRKWALL, ORKNEY ISLANDS, December 15.—The steamship Oscar II, having on board the Ford peace party, arrived here early to-day.

### NO DETAILS OBTAINABLE AT AMERICAN EMBASSY

LONDON, December 15.—At both the Foreign Office and the American embassy it was stated this afternoon that the dispatch from Kirkwall announcing the arrival there of the steamship Oscar II, with the Henry Ford peace party on board, was the first news received in London concerning the steamer. At the American embassy confirmation was obtained later that the Oscar II, had been taken into Kirkwall. It was said this was presumably in order that the steamer might be examined. No further details were obtainable at the embassy.

### BANKERS GIVEN HEARING

Suggest Amendments to Federal Reserve Act and Other Financial Legislation.

WASHINGTON, December 15.—Representatives of the national bank section of the American Bankers Association were given a hearing to-day by the Federal Reserve Board to suggest amendments to the Federal reserve act and other legislation which would have an indirect connection with the operation of reserve banks. The bankers urged legislation to provide for uniformity of holding, changes in reserve requirements, and a provision that acceptance based on domestic business may be discounted by reserve banks. Only acceptance based on the importation or exportation of goods are now discountable.

The board has not yet determined whether it will make any recommendations for Congress for legislation.

### IN NEED OF DYESTUFFS

Means of Relieving Shortage Considered by Committee of National Association of Clothiers.

NEW YORK, December 15.—Means of relieving the shortage of dyestuffs in this country were considered to-day at a meeting here of a special committee of the National Association of Clothiers. The meeting adjourned until January without taking definite action.

A majority of the members were of the opinion that a committee should be sent to Washington to urge authorities to take action on the British embargo on dyestuffs, especially the embargo on logwood from Jamaica. It was agreed that this would give only temporary relief, and that Congress should be urged to pass legislation which would foster the establishment of dye factories in this country.

### MCCHORD TO BE REAPPOINTED

President Wilson Will Continue Incumbent Chairman of I. C. C. in Position.

WASHINGTON, December 15.—C. C. McChord, whose term as a member of the Interstate Commerce Commission expires this week, will be reappointed by President Wilson. Mr. McChord is chairman of the commission.

## END OF BASEBALL WAR IS IN SIGHT

American Magnates Agree to  
Peace Terms of Nationals  
and Federals.

### CONTEST HAS BEEN BITTER

Meeting of Leagues Will Be Held  
Within Week for Final  
Settlement.

CHICAGO, December 15.—The end of the baseball war came in sight to night, when American League magnates, at their annual session here, agreed to the peace terms arranged at New York between the Federal and National Leagues.

Within a few days, according to President Johnson, the details of agreement, which does away with the Federals as an independent league, will be arranged, the American League having consented to appoint a committee to meet the envoys from the others.

The peace proposals of the Federals were related to the American League meeting by Barney Dreyfuss, president of the Pittsburgh Nationals. For an hour Mr. Dreyfuss addressed the American League club owners, explaining in detail the agreement. Its terms were not made public, both Mr. Dreyfuss and the magnates agreeing to keep silent on these, but it is generally understood that the consolidation of the National and the Federal is the basis.

President Johnson declared that there would be only two leagues—the American and National.

A national peace session probably will take place within a week, according to Mr. Johnson, at New York or Chicago. Many details remain to be settled. These involve the ball players who jumped from one league to another, and may result in many of the clubs getting back those who left in the war crisis.

The feeling that peace was about to be concluded put a stop to a good deal of the trade talk which preceded the meeting. That the effect of the war's end would be to create an "easier" market for ball players was admitted, and all concerned denied that any trades had been arranged.

### END OF BASEBALL WAR IN SIGHT, SAY JOHNSON

"The end of the baseball war is in sight," said President Johnson. "The plans for peace submitted by Mr. Dreyfuss were agreeable to the American League, according to the sense of our meeting, and we shall appoint a committee to go over the details."

"It is probable the meeting of the three committees will be followed by a meeting of the national commission. The proposition for peace includes three major leagues."

The peace terms, as previously given out by members of both the National and Federal Leagues, included the purchase of a large interest in one of the New York clubs by Harry Sinclair; the purchase of the Chicago Nationals by Charles Weeghman and his assistants; the Browns or the Cardinals at St. Louis to Phil Ball and Otto Steifel; and the amalgamation of the Brooklyn Nationals and Federals. Neither Mr. Dreyfuss nor the American League leaders would verify these statements.

The peace protocol ends a war that began to attract attention just two years ago this month. The Federal League had been in existence then a year, but not until Joe Tinker made it reach terms with the Brooklyn Nationals, had agreed to join the Chicago Federals did it look serious. Tinker induced a number of players from both rival leagues to join the new league, and its organizers succeeded in attracting additional capitalists as backers.

The new league then expanded, putting teams in Brooklyn and St. Louis, in addition to its former circuit, and one by one gathered into its fold some star ball players.

The legality of contracts brought the fight between the Federals and organized ball into the courts in several cases, the climax coming with the anti-trust suit filed before Judge Landis about a year ago. This case came to trial last January, but Judge Landis has never handed down a decision, and some baseball men thought he was hoping for the success of peace negotiations, since during the trial, he declared he was again nothing "calculated to tear down this structure known as baseball."

### MAKING WILL SELL BAKER TO HIGHEST BIDDER

Connie Mack, manager of the Philadelphia Athletics, arrived to-day and announced that J. Franklin Baker, third baseman of his team, would be sold to the highest bidder at the American League meeting.

"There has been so much talk about Frank Baker," said the Philadelphia manager, "that I am tired of it. I have decided to sell him to the highest bidder at this meeting."

Among those who have expressed a desire to add Baker to their clubs are Comiskey, of the Chicago White Sox, and the management of the New York American League Baseball Club.

### FEDERALS SEEK TO IMPOSE CONDITIONS ON VICTORS

NEW YORK, December 15.—The National League magnates virtually marked time here to-day while waiting for the American League to ratify the proposed terms of peace between organized and independent baseball interests. As the story of the tentative agreement developed, it appeared that independent baseball interests had imposed conditions such as victors are wont to dictate, and they did not appeal so keenly to the National League as they did in the rosy light of the recent peace conference.

President James A. Gilmore, of the Federal League, and Harry F. Sinclair, (Continued on Eighth Page.)

## ENGINEER TACKLES WEST-END PROBLEM

William J. Wilgus, Former Vice-  
President of New York Cen-  
tral, Inspects Line.

### SEES PRACTICAL SOLUTION

Expert Will File Detailed Report  
on Saturday Outlining Best  
Procedure.

The proper extension of the West End avenues across the Belt Line, while involving several problems of a familiar nature, can be effected on a plan which will eliminate grade crossings and satisfy at the same time the railroad's desire for economic construction and the city's demand for a permanent and esthetically desirable solution.

This is the opinion of William John Wilgus, formerly vice-president and chief engineer of the New York Central Lines, and at present consulting engineer for a number of roads in the West. As chief engineer for the New York Central, Mr. Wilgus had charge of the initiation and creation of the Grand Central Terminal improvement in New York City. Since leaving the New York Central, he has directed and executed some of the most important engineering assignments in the United States.

Mr. Wilgus has been in the city for the past few days for the purpose of making a complete study of the Belt Line situation. He came here at the invitation of The Times-Dispatch, which announced two weeks ago its intention to stand sponsor for an independent study of the Belt Line problem by an engineer of national reputation.

### GIVES FIRST-HAND STUDY TO PRESENT CONDITIONS

For some time previous to his coming, Mr. Wilgus had been provided with drawings of the several plans for adjusting the Belt Line problem, that have been suggested, together with the critical comment on these plans by members of the city government and the engineers of the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad Company.

During the past two days Mr. Wilgus made a detailed inspection of the portion of the Belt Line in question, going for the right of way on foot. He made a study also of plans and blue prints of the Hankins plan, on file in the office of the City Engineer.

Before returning to New York yesterday to prepare a detailed report and recommendation, Mr. Wilgus, at the Jefferson Hotel, discussed in his general aspects the problem that must be solved, pointing out, incidentally, that precisely the same question of depressed or overhead railway construction is encountered and adjusted in every populous and growing city in the country. In Richmond, he said, the problem is only different to the extent of the difference of topography.

### WITHHOLDS PLAN UNTIL REPORT IS COMPLETED

While he had arrived at a definite conclusion as to the best plan for carrying the West End avenues across the Belt Line, he preferred to withhold it until it is embodied in detail in his report. This, he said, will be ready by Saturday. The Council Street Committee is scheduled to meet on Monday night for a further consideration of the Belt Line problem, and Mr. Wilgus' recommendation will be filed with it, as the advice of a disinterested expert. The full text of Mr. Wilgus' report will be printed in The Times-Dispatch on Sunday.

As an engineer dealing with the problems of one of the greatest railroad systems in the world for fourteen years and with the construction problems of large Western railroads for fifteen years previous to his connection with the New York Central, Mr. Wilgus is properly regarded as an authority on questions similar to the one that now troubles Richmond.

Besides supervising the creation of the Grand Central Terminal in New York, Mr. Wilgus was in complete charge also of the change of motive power from steam to electricity on the New York Central lines within the so-called electric zone of New York City. During his connection with this road he was in immediate charge of the elimination of grade crossings throughout the State of New York—notably in such cities as Albany, Schenectady, Utica, Rochester and Buffalo.

### DIRECTED CONSTRUCTION OF HUDSON RIVER BRIDGE

Under Mr. Wilgus' direction, all bridges on the New York Central Lines were rebuilt for heavier traffic. One of the largest of these works was the construction of the double-track bridge across the Hudson River at Albany.

Since leaving the New York Central, Mr. Wilgus has been associated in a directing capacity with some of the major engineering works of recent years. He was chairman of the board of engineers which constructed the tunnel under the Detroit River for the Michigan Central, connecting the city of Detroit with the Canadian city of Windsor. With the building of the Detroit Union Station, which was part of the scheme, the project involved a cost of \$15,000,000.

In practically all of his undertakings, Mr. Wilgus has faced the problem of eliminating grade crossings. The Union Station constructions in Albany, Troy, Schenectady, Utica and Detroit all presented phases of the problem that the city of Richmond now faces in the West End, and in every case the difficulties were overcome in a manner satisfactory to the city authorities.

### ROUND TRIP CHRISTMAS TICKETS, Via Norfolk and Western Railway.

Will be on sale to-morrow. Rate, Norfolk and return, \$5.00; Lynchburg and return, \$4.00; and other points.

## SIR JOHN FRENCH REPLACED BY HAIG



SIR JOHN FRENCH.



—Photos by Underwood & Underwood.  
SIR DOUGLAS HAIG.

### SYNDICATE TO TAKE OVER \$280,000,000 OF BIG LOAN

Unsold Balance of Anglo-French War  
Credit Will Be Distributed  
This Week.

### ITS SUCCESS ESTABLISHED

Largest Venture of Kind Ever Taken  
Over by American Bankers—Issue  
Is Outstanding Feature of Day's  
Bond Market.

NEW YORK, December 15.—The managers of the syndicate which underwrote the Anglo-French \$280,000,000 5 per cent external war loan announced to-day that \$280,000,000 of the issue had been withdrawn for investment at the syndicate price of 96 1/4, and that \$19,000,000 had been sold at public subscription for 98. The unsold balance of \$280,000,000 will be distributed this week among members of the syndicate, which expired yesterday, according to a previous agreement.

The syndicate also announced that the managers are distributing to those who did not withdraw their bonds for investment cash amounts to between 10 per cent and 11 per cent of the amount of their participation.

Representatives of the syndicate declared that the result established the success of the flotation, particularly in view of its foreign character, and the fact that it was the largest venture of its kind ever undertaken by American bankers.

The Anglo-French issue was the outstanding feature of to-day's bond market, and its influence was easily perceptible in the market for other securities. Sales of the bonds, par value, amounted to about \$2,400,000, or fully 20 per cent of the day's bond dealings on the exchange.

### MINIMUM PRICE UNDER SYNDICATE PRICE

The minimum price was 94 1/8, both for regular and "future" delivery. They recovered in the later dealings to 94 3/4, and closed at 94 3/8. The minimum quotation was 21 1/8 points under the price at which they were taken by the syndicate.

Of the \$280,000,000 withdrawn from the market, it is estimated that at least \$100,000,000 was taken by dealers and manufacturers in war supplies. The largest subscribers of this class include interests identified with the Bethlehem Steel Company, the Du Pont Powder Company and its affiliated industries, including some of the more prominent shareholders of the United States Steel Corporation.

It is noteworthy that, while Anglo-French bonds were being offered at concessions, war bonds and the other issues of the German, Austrian and Hungarian governments, which are traded in here to a limited extent, were offered at further concessions from original subscription prices. The decline in these securities was attributed chiefly to another break in markets or German exchange to the low record of 76 3/4, against the previous minimum of 77 1/8.

On the basis of 1 mark as the unit of exchange, the present value of that currency, normally worth 23 1/2, has depreciated to a fraction above 19 cents.

### RENTS HOUSE IN BALTIMORE

Billy Sunday, Preparing for Next  
Spring's Campaign, Gets Mansion  
in Rich Residential Section.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]  
BALTIMORE, MD., December 15.—Billy Sunday to-day leased the magnificent house at 15 West Mount Vernon Place for his stay here next spring. It is in the most expensive residential block in Baltimore. There is some outspoken criticism of his action.

### ANGLO-FRENCH FORCES NOW CLOSE TO SALONKI

Not Believed Austrians and Germans  
Have Sufficient Troops Avail-  
able to Attack Them.

### CAMPAIN ENTERS NEW PHASE

Teutons May Rest on Their Laurels  
in Near East for Time Being and  
Make Bid for Victory on Western  
Front.

LONDON, December 15.—With the Anglo-French forces safely across the Greek frontier and close to their fortified base at Saloniki, where reinforcements are arriving daily, the second phase of the Balkan campaign, which opened with the Teutonic invasion of Serbia and the defeat of her army, has closed, and the people of the belligerent countries are anxiously awaiting for the next move.

It seems fairly well settled that the Bulgarians do not intend to invade Greece, an action which would likely cause dissensions in that country, which already is uneasy over the Bulgarian occupation of Monastir. Also, it is not believed that the Austrians and Germans have sufficient troops available to attack the entente allies.

The speculation naturally has to do with the Germans and their intentions. They are variously reported to be concentrated near Monastir and Doiran and on the Roumanian border, and as preparing for an attempt to drive the entente allies from the Gallipoli Peninsula. All these reports lack confirmation.

### GERMANS MUST KEEP WATCH ON ROUMANIANS

One thing seems certain to the military observers—that the Germans will have to keep a close watch on the Roumanian side, not only because of the danger of that country entering the war against them, but to meet the threat of a Russian invasion through Roumania, which, although nothing has been said of it recently, has not been lost sight of.

Wherever the Germans move, they will find the entente allies prepared. Salonki is being made stronger daily, and has the backing of warships, as also has the Gallipoli Peninsula, where the entente positions likewise have been strengthened. The Russians are believed by the military authorities to be able to cope with any army the Teutonic powers can collect on the Roumanian border, while Egypt, which is said to be another of their objectives, also has been placed in a state of defense.

There are many persons who believe that the Germans propose to rest on their laurels in the Near East for the time being, and make a bid for victory on the western front. Persistent reports come from Holland of the concentration of German armies in Belgium and Luxembourg, with the intention of striking a blow as soon as the ground permits it. At the present moment the greater part of the country is a sea of mud, in which it would be suicide for any army to attempt an offensive.

### CONCENTRATION ACCOUNTS FOR ARMY AIR RAIDS

The reported concentration of German air raids which the entente allies are making behind the German lines, in an effort to upset the movement of troops and destroy shelters, camps and the supplies of munitions which are necessary for an offensive.

General Townshend reports the repulse of further Turkish attacks against the British position at Kut-el-Amara, Mesopotamia.

### GOING AWAY FOR CHRISTMAS?

Lodging rates for the holidays via SOUTHERN RAILWAY. Phone Madison 272.

## YIELDS COMMAND OF BRITISH FORCES ON WESTERN FRONT

Successor Repeatedly Men-  
tioned in Dispatches for  
Brave Conduct.

### LONG MILITARY CAREER AS CAVALRY OFFICER

Change Expected for Some Time  
and Appointment, as Made,  
Anticipated.

### HONORS FOR RETIRING CHIEF

Will Head Armies in United King-  
dom and Is Created Vis-  
count by King.

LONDON, December 16.—Field Marshal Sir John French, who, at his own request, has been relieved of the command of the British forces in France and Flanders, has been succeeded by Sir Douglas Haig. Since the landing of the expeditionary force, Sir Douglas Haig has commanded the first army, and has been repeatedly mentioned in dispatches by his chief, whose place he now takes.

The change had been expected for some time, and it was announced in the House of Commons yesterday (Wednesday) that a statement would be published immediately.

Sir John French becomes commander-in-chief of the armies in the United Kingdom, and for his sixteen months' services at the front has been created viscount of the United Kingdom.

Although many names had been mentioned as the possible successor of Field Marshal French, including that of the Duke of Connaught, the appointment, it is said, was anticipated in the best-informed circles.

### HAIG NINE YEARS YOUNGER THAN HIS FORMER CHIEF

General Haig is nine years younger than his former chief, and, like him, won his spurs as a cavalry officer. His first command, and for his sixteen months' services at the front has been created viscount of the United Kingdom.

After a few years of staff duty in England, he became chief of staff in India, and at the outbreak of the war was general officer commanding at Aldershot. From there he took the first army to France.

### WAR OFFICE ANNOUNCEMENT OF CHANGE IN COMMAND

The War Office announcement reads as follows:

"General Sir Douglas Haig has been appointed to succeed Field Marshal Sir John French in command of the armies in France and Flanders."

"Since the commencement of the war, during over sixteen months of severe incessant strain, Field Marshal French has most ably commanded our armies in France and Flanders, and he has now, at his own instance, relinquished that command."

"His Majesty's government, with full appreciation of and gratitude for the conspicuous services which Field Marshal French has rendered to his country at the front, and with the King's approval, has decided to accept the appointment of commander-in-chief of the troops stated in the United Kingdom, and Field Marshal French has accepted that appointment."

"The King has been pleased to confer upon Sir John French the dignity of viscount of the United Kingdom."

### HAIG HIGHLY PRAISED IN FRENCH DISPATCH

Several times during the war General Haig has come in for high praise in the dispatches of the general he is now succeeding. At the battle of the Aisne his conduct was described by Field Marshal Sir John French as "bold, skilful and decisive." In November of last year Sir Douglas, then a lieutenant-general, was promoted to the rank of general for distinguished services in the field.

Field Marshal French, in his dispatch to the British War Office describing the famous retreat from Mons, credited Sir Douglas with having extricated his corps from a difficult position at Landreies. "I sent urgent messages to the commander of the two French reserve divisions on my right to come up to the assistance of the First Corps, which they eventually did," said the field marshal's dispatch. "Partly owing to this assistance, but mainly to the skilful manner in which Sir Douglas Haig extricated his corps from an exceptionally difficult position in the darkness of the night, they were able at dawn to resume their march south towards Wassy-sur-Meuse, on the Meuse."

General Haig is a Scotchman. He won his first honor under General Kitchener in the Sudan, where he was promoted to a brevet major on the field for gallantry at Atbara, and before Khartoum.